Shortage of staff in DGCA

2956. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

whether as reported in media the Indian aviation is heading towards disaster;

if so, whether any mechanisms are put in place to ensure the safety of air travel in the country;

if so, the details thereof;

whether the issue of shortage of staff in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has been looked into;

if so, the steps taken to address the same; and

if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) mechanisms for ensuring safety of air operations have been evolved over the years and are in place. These include stringent training standards for pilots and engineers, effective oversight and regulatory control by DGCA, frequent spot checks and audits on operations and maintenance activities, interactive meetings with airlines to address their issues, formation of National Safety Teams at Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) level in coordination with industry representatives to bring in proactive improvements and safety enhancements etc.

(d) and (e) The Government had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri M.K. Kaw, former Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation to review the roles and functions of DGCA. Out of the 276 recommendations 27 specifically pertain to additional manpower requirement in DGCA. These recommendations were accepted by Government for implementation and necessary action has been initiated.

(f) Does not arise.

Delay in flights of Air India

2957. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that there are instances in which Air India flights had been delayed in both departure and arrivals;

if so, the details thereof;

the number of instances and reasons for those delay, and financial loss to Air India due to these for the last three years, year-wise, airport-wise and category-wise; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to avoid these delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Flights of airlines including that of Air India get delayed for various reasons. Delays are mainly of two types—One within the control of the airline such as technical snags, shortage of crew/aircraft etc. and the other outside the control of the